

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 24, 1892, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 12 bis Piazza d'Asoglio, Florence, Jan. 24, 1892. My dear Alec:

Yesterday came your cable "Just off" — and now I begin to count the days until you can arrive. We shall all be glad to see you. It is good to be able to place you in my mind any feel that it is possible to take a shrewd guess at your doings and moment. I fear it was hard to leave flying machines and graphophone cylinders when you did, but perhaps you will be so good as to think the pleasure you will give us by your presence worth the sacrifice. I hope that you will sit by the Captain, and make it so pleasant for him that he will forget what a stupid neighbor your wife proved herself. I was very sorry but I am a poor hand at making friends you know at the best and I was very homesick.

We have been so very fortunate here, our rooms are so comfortable and the Misses Clark are so very kind and friendly, it is just the ideal life, with no care and as much privacy as we want. No other boarders to make us realize that we are not simply sharing houses with two pleasant friends who take all the trouble of house housekeeping off our hands. The children are devoted to Miss Frederica who is their teacher, I think that are working well. Elsie is very well, but neither she nor Daisy have quite got over an occasional cough, but it grows less frequent every day, in spite of the most unpropitious weather.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown Goods are here, but they are not as well off as we in any way, and Mr. Goode's trouble has come back again, so Mrs. Goode says they are going to Sicily on Tuesday, but their 2 plane change every day so they may be here when you come, but I hope not for I do not think it can be safe for Mr. Goode where they are. As for Mrs. Burton I have not seen her since Thursday and then I thought her very much better and stronger, dressed and moving around the room, and was therefore surprised when the doctor called

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later on the same day, and said that he had had her expectoration analyzed and localized the tubercle bacillus. He said this showed very serious lung trouble, but it was possible that with care she would get over it. I asked him, well, what did he want me to do, it was not too late to telegraph you to bring her father. He said he did not think it was necessary at present, but he would not tell me not to telegraph, he thought her friends ought to know. Finally he asked me to call on a friend of Mrs. Burton's and see what she said, which I did, and the result of our conference was the cable I sent you. I must confess I am rather afraid to call on her for fear she may think I interfered unwarrantably in her affairs, but I wrote Dr. Baldwin that her father was in your employ, and that if he wanted him to come on you would be the proper person to apply to. Consequently the doctor has called on me twice about her affairs, and I telegraphed with the approval of her friend. I have not told her because I had no authority from the doctor to do so and if I asked if she would like her father it might frighten her.

Goodbye my dear. Don't be too much astonished by Daisy's letter, Miss Clark helped her write it and told her most of the words.

Lovingly yours, Mabel. My cable address is Lebam, Florence not Bell Lebam.